



Strengthening Local Capacities: The Critical Path to Building Resilient Communities



By

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1. What has been learned about capacity development in disaster reduction in the affected countries PRIOR to the tsunami?
2. What progress and issues are observed AFTER the tsunami in relation to capacity development?
3. Recommendations for better practice in capacity development for disaster reduction.

Disaster: Crisis and Opportunity



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Opportunities and Risks in Coastal Areas

- Resources for building and maintaining sustainable livelihoods
 - Tourism and income generation
- But increasing* ■
- Exposure to hazards of cyclone, storm surge, tsunami, coastal erosion and pollution



- Disaster reduction: a moving target
 - 1995-2004: a steady increase in number of deaths
 - Increasing impacts in developed countries
 - Dynamic patterns of risk at the local levels

Capacity Development for Disaster Reduction

- December 2004: The impact of the earthquake and tsunamis

Country	Dead or missing	Displaced	Losses (US\$M)
Indonesia	166,334	566,898	4,451
Sri Lanka	35,262	519,063	1,454
India	16,389	647,599	1,224
Thailand	8,240	n.a	2,198
Maldives	108	21,663	603

Capacity Development for Disaster Reduction



Disasters and Development Interface

TABLE 1.1 DISASTER-DEVELOPMENT

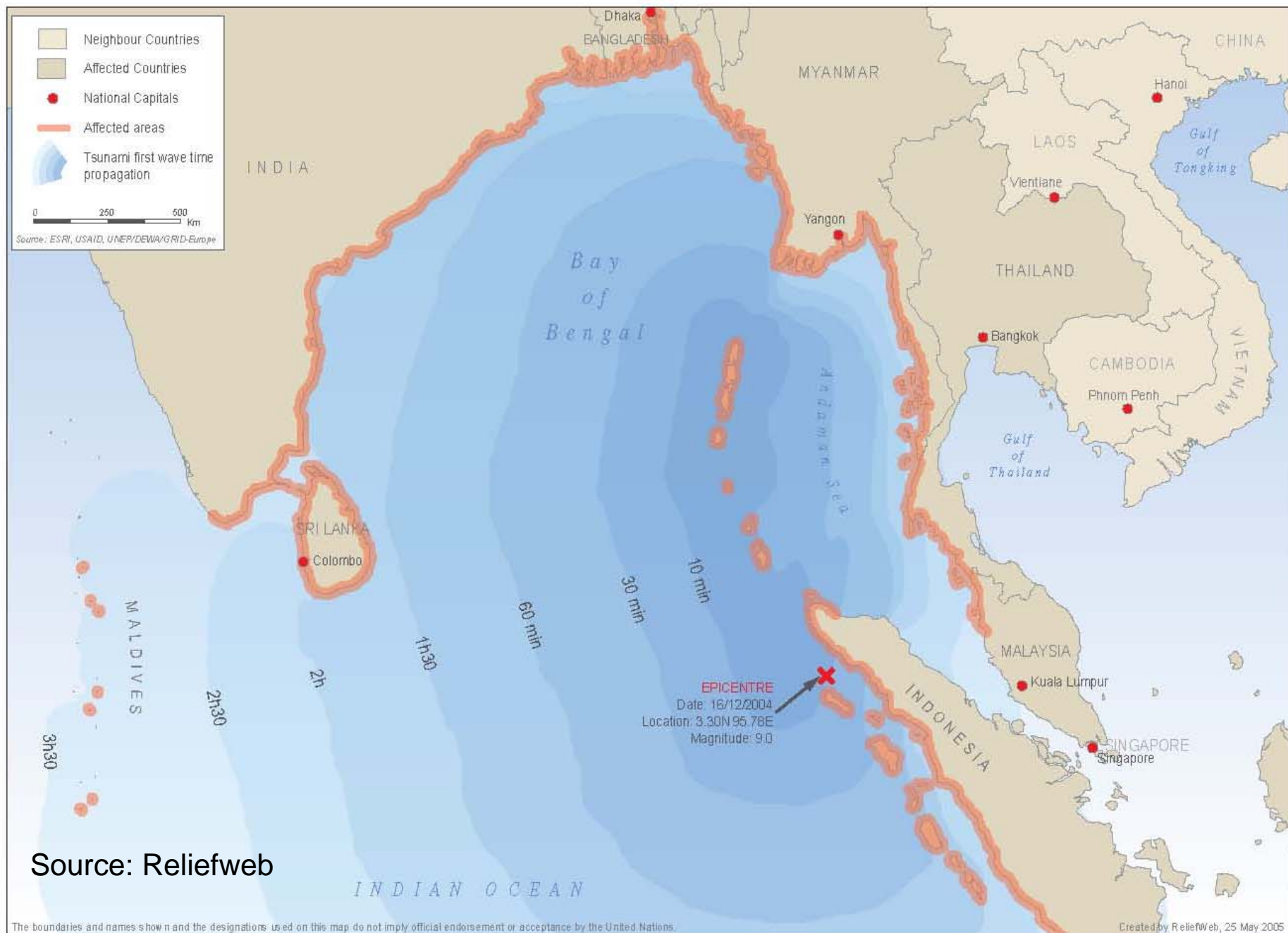
	Economic Development	Social Development
Disaster limits development	Destruction of fixed assets. Loss of production capacity, market access or material inputs. Damage to transport, communications or energy infrastructure. Erosion of livelihoods, savings and physical capital.	Destruction of health or education infrastructure and personnel. Death, disablement or migration of key social actors leading to an erosion of social capital.
Development causes disaster risk	Unsustainable development practices that create wealth for some at the expense of unsafe working or living conditions for others or degrade the environment.	Development paths generating cultural norms that promote social isolation or political exclusion.
Development reduces disaster risk	Access to adequate drinking water, food, waste management and a secure dwelling increases people's resiliency. Trade and technology can reduce poverty. Investing in financial mechanisms and social security can cushion against vulnerability.	Building community cohesion, recognising excluded individuals or social groups (such as women), and providing opportunities for greater involvement in decision-making, enhanced educational and health capacity increases resiliency.



Capacity Development for Disaster Reduction

***Capacity Development:
What has been learned in tsunami
affected countries?***

South Asia: Tsunami Propagation Time



Source: Reliefweb



Lessons from the tsunami affected countries

- A chronicle of trial and error
- Levels of capacity development
- Local capacities-roles of communities



- A chronicle of trial and error:
 - “ a simple transfer of knowledge from North to South”
 - Increasing focus on “south-south” i.e. sharing of best practices
 - Incremental HRD against moving target (Quantity and Quality)



- Levels of capacity development
 - Historically more focused on individual level
 - Organizational level - limited multiplier effects
 - Enabling environment - insignificant attention accorded prior to the major disasters

Capacity Development for Disaster Reduction



What progress and issues are observed AFTER the tsunami in relation to capacity development?

- Local capacities and roles of communities

Tsunami relief phase: local capacity is underestimated and undervalued and stakeholders have the tendency to undermine local capacities

- Local Government Role

Local government plays a crucial role in post disaster recovery, but has to date are observed to receive relatively little attention

- Recovery Programme and Implementation

Results and outcomes of recovery efforts are studied, but rarely the process of rebuilding capacity



“Consensus for better practice in capacity development in disaster reduction is yet to be achieved.”



The need for better practice in capacity development

- Understanding the international and country contexts
- Identifying and supporting sources of country owned change
- Delivering support
- Learning from experience and sharing lessons



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